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PART III—Section I

NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Dated 11th June 1951.

No. D. 1389. The following copy of Resolution No. 32 (1)-T.B.—51, dated 18th May 1951, received from the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is hereby republished for information of the public.

By Order of His Highness the Maharaja,

R. J. REGO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

New Delhi, the 18th May 1951.

Resolution.

(Tariffs).

No. 32 (1)-T.B. 51. The Tariff Board was asked to investigate and report on the claim of the Caustic Soda and Bleaching Powder Industry for assistance or protection. The Board, having considered the matter, has submitted its report. Its recommendations are as follows :—

(i) The following protective specific duties should be imposed and remain in force until the 31st March 1954 :—

Name of the Article.	Standard rate of duty.	Preferential rate of duty if the article is the produce or manufacture of the U.K. or a British Colony.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1 Caustic Soda ...	8 10 0 per Cwt.	6 4 0 per Cwt.
2 Bleaching Powder...	2 8 0 per Cwt.	... ...
3 Liquid Chlorine ...	20 2 0 per Cwt.	14 8 0 per Cwt.

(ii) The manufacturers should take early steps to balance their plants so as to enable a fuller utilisation of chlorine by manufacturing suitable chlorine products in the country.

(iii) There is some scope for improvement in the quality of the indigenous caustic soda and manufacturers should take necessary steps to bring the quality up to the standards of the imported article.

(iv) The manufacturers should make the necessary representations to the railway authorities concerned on the question of reduction of railway freights on salt, coke, coal, limestone, and the finished products.

(v) The matter of allocation of an adequate number of wagons and locomotives should be taken up with the authorities concerned.

(vi) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry should arrange to allocate more adequate supplies of M.S. Sheets to the Industry.

(vii) As the grant of a rebate on the salt cess will assist this important industry in reducing its cost of production, Government should sympathetically consider this matter and take an early decision on it.

(viii) The proposal made by D.C.M. Chemicals regarding the substitution of hydrochlorine acid in the place of sulphuric acid for certain industrial uses should be examined by the D.G., Supplies and Disposals and if its practicability is established, the Railway Board should be approached to give favourable consideration to the request for a reduction of freight on hydrochloric acide.

2. As regards recommendation (i), this has been based on the landed cost of caustic soda prevailing at the time of the enquiry, namely, Rs. 26/13 per Cwt., the fair selling price being estimated by the Board at Rs. 27-2-2 per Cwt. The landed cost of imported caustic doda has since increased very considerably. Government do not, therefore, consider that there is at present any need to impose a protective duty as recommended. A watch will, however, be kept on the landed cost of imported caustic soda, and the matter reconsidered, if necessary.

3. Government accept recommendations (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v), and the attention of the industry is invited to these recommendations. Recommendations (vi), (vii) and (viii) are under examination.

4. As caustic soda is specified in the Schedule attached to the Supply and Prices of Goods Act, 1950, Government have taken the opportunity of considering whether any alteration is necessary in the internal controlled price of this commodity. The landed cost of caustic soda at the time of the Board's enquiry was Rs. 26-13-0 per Cwt. This cost has since increased and the controlled price has accordingly been raised to Rs. 40-6-0 per Cwt. f.o.r. Bombay under this Ministry's Notification No. P.C. 7 (8)—50, dated the 19th April 1951. The Board's estimate of the fair selling price of indigenous caustic soda is Rs. 27-2-0 per Cwt. Government have considered whether the controlled price should not be fixed accordingly. In view, however, of the administrative difficulties involved in maintaining two prices for the same commodity and of the fact that the bulk of the requirements of the country has to be imported so that the consuming industries have to pay the higher world price, Government have decided to fix a uniform selling price based on the price of the imported commodity. Government expect indigenous manufacturers, who will benefit by this arrangement, to take advantage of this period to strengthen their financial position and reserves. This will be taken into account when considering any claim from the industry in future for the grant of assistance or protection.

ORDER.

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all concerned and to be published in the *Gazette of India.*

S. A. VENKATARAMAN,
Secretary to Government of India.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT

Dated 11th June 1951.

No. Fl. 1527-1627—S.F. 37-51-3. The accompanying letter C. No. 14 (11)-I.T.—51, dated New Delhi, the 12th May 1951 and its enclosure from the Central Board of Revenue on the subject of deduction of surcharge at source under Indian Finance Act, 1951, is reproduced for the